HOUSING. COMM& ECON DEVELOP

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) oversees the distribution of state and federal grant funds through the Safe Routes to School Program for the construction of pedestrian, bicycle safety and traffic calming projects and for activities intended to change community behavior. attitudes and social norms to make it safer for children to walk and bicycle to school. The City has submitted project applications for the previous seven state and two federal Safe Routes to Schools programs

On July 11, 2008, the Council approved the City's final list of projects for the second cycle of the federal Safe Routes to Schools. As part of the discussion, LADOT staff raised issues relative to the Caltrans process for evaluating projects and awarding funding. The grant process is supposed to be competitive with consideration given for geographic equity. It appears, however, the funding targets given to each Caltrans District at the beginning of the process were determined by the percentage of grant awards for each district in the prior six cycles. Basically, this rewards districts that were awarded more funds in previous grant cycles and penalizes those that did poorly in previous grant cycles. The Southern California districts did especially poorly in the previous cycles when compared to the total population and student population. Additionally, the evaluation criteria and review process used by Caltrans to rank projects is unclear and has not been shared with local agencies.

In response to the Department's concerns, the Council amended the recommendations contained in the June 30, 2008 LADOT report to direct the Department to prepare a letter to Caltrans asking for the scores by evaluation criteria for prior cycle Safe Routes to School Program projects. City staff has worked with Caltrans over the past few months pressing for an open, transparent process, however, few changes have been made. It appears that each Caltrans district will receive funding proportional to student population for the eighth cycle of the state Safe Routes to School program, but no other substantive changes will be made. The City needs to proactively address these issues to ensure that a fair share of these funds are given to Southern California and that these monies are appropriately awarded to the most deserving projects.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request Caltrans to present the evaluation criteria, details on the evaluation committee membership, project selection process and the determination behind the allocation of funding for the State and Federal Safe Routes to School Programs.

PRESENTED BY:

Y GREUEL WEND Councilmember, 2nd District

SECONDED BY:

Quue the -1751-SI

WG ms

OCT 1 0 2008